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Dental Office Manager Sentenced to 180 Days in County Jail for Insurance Fraud

A former dental office manager convicted of insurance fraud was sentenced today to 180 days in county jail, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Los Angeles County Superior Court Judge David M. Horwitz also placed Claudia Ventura, 40, on five years of formal probation and ordered her to complete 200 hours of community service.

Deputy District Attorney Grace Pak of the Healthcare Fraud Division prosecuted the case.

Ventura, who helped a Beverly Hills dentist bilk almost \$440,000 from multiple insurance carriers, pleaded no contest in April to two felony counts of insurance fraud. Ventura also admitted an excessive taking allegation.

Co-defendant Tom K. Kalili, 59, who owned and operated a dental office called Beverly Hills Medical Suites, also pleaded in April.

He pleaded no contest to one felony count each of insurance fraud and failure to file income tax returns. Kalili also admitted excessive taking allegations of more than \$150,000.

Kalili, who was sentenced to one year in county jail and placed on five years of formal probation, paid more than \$780,000 in restitution to various insurance companies, including Anthem Blue Cross, United Healthcare and to the State of California Franchise Tax Board.

The criminal case stemmed from a multi-year joint investigation by the California Department of Insurance, the California Dental Board and the California Franchise Tax Board. The investigation revealed that the total loss to the insurance carriers was \$439,000.

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About the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey leads the largest local prosecutorial office in the nation. Her staff of nearly 1,000 attorneys, 300 investigators and 800 support staff members is dedicated to seeking justice for victims of crime and enhancing public safety. Last year, the <u>Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office</u> prosecuted more than 73,000 felony defendants and 113,000 misdemeanor defendants.